

ADDITIONS TO THE AVI-FAUNA OF THE COUNTY OF
CUMBERLAND.

BY ALFRED J. NORTH, C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist.

In the "Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales" in December, 1888,¹ I recorded "A List of the Birds found in the County of Cumberland, New South Wales." It was a bare list of the species, without comment of any kind. Nearly a decade later in the "Handbook of Sydney and the County of Cumberland, for the use of the Members of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science," I gave a second list of "The Birds of the County of Cumberland." In this list the species appeared under their respective orders and families, with brief notes as to their haunts, and localities where they could be found in the County. Of those species now added several were included in the first list, but omitted in the second. Two of them now restored *Edoliisoma tenuirostre* and *Munia castaneo-thorax* have since been found breeding, the former, regularly visiting and remaining to breed in the County. By far, however, the greater number of the additions are due to climatic influences, principally caused by periods of excessive drought inland, and to a less extent by coastal gales. Some of the additions are founded on donations made to the Trustees of the Australian Museum. Among the donors, not only of additions to the avi-fauna of the County, but of many rare species, may be especially mentioned, Mr. Henry Newcombe of Randwick. He has also been a frequent contributor to the Museum collections for upwards of a quarter of a century. Several of the species included in the present list, have been previously recorded at the time when they were obtained, either in the "Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales," or the "Records of the Australian Museum."

¹ North—Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, (2), iii., 1888, p. 1773.

² North—Handbk. Austr. Assoc. Adv. Sci., Sydney, 1898, p. 68.

Order PASSERES.*Family* PTILONORHYNCHIDÆ.CHILAMYDODERA MACULATA, *Gould.**Spotted Bower-bird.*

Only a single example of this species has come under my notice. It was received in the flesh by the Trustees of the Australian Museum, and was shot in an apple tree in a garden at Smithfield, about twenty miles from Sydney, on the 19th May, 1902, by a son of Mr. James Stein, the donor, and during a severe drought inland. This specimen, a fine old adult male in perfect plumage, was exhibited at a meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, on the 25th June, 1902.

Family CAMPOPHAGIDÆ.EDOLISOMA TENUIROSTRE, *Jardine.**Jardine's Caterpillar-eater.*

I first observed this species in the County of Cumberland at Waterfall in 1898, and later at Roseville, on the 20th October, 1900. It is a regular migrant, arriving in the latter locality on or about the same date every year, remaining to breed, and departing again about the end of January or early in February. Only two or three pairs visit the district, one's attention being attracted to them by their peculiar frog-like note. A nest found at Roseville, on the 30th November, 1901, was built in a forked horizontal branch of a *Casuarina suberosa*, and contained an incubated egg. This species is more numerous in parts of the adjoining County of Northumberland.

Family MELIPHAGIDÆ.ENTOMOPHILA PICTA, *Gould.**Painted Honey-eater.*

This rare Honey-eater is nomadic in habits and is chiefly an inhabitant of the inland portions of the State. On the 14th February, 1901, a nest and two eggs were taken at Fivedock, a suburb of Sydney, and the parent bird procured. A week later, collecting on behalf of the Trustees of the Australian Museum, Mr. R. Grant shot an adult male in the adjoining suburb of Abbotsford, and brought back with him an unfinished nest of this

species. This Honey-eater is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful of the large Family Meliphagida, and one with the most strikingly contrasted plumage.

PHILEMON CITREOCULARIS, Gould.

Yellow-throated Friar-bird.

This species was apparently driven to the coast by the severe drought of 1902. Mr. H. Newcombe presented a specimen in the flesh, that he had shot on the 31st May, 1902, at Kurnell. During the following month Mr. James Stein trapped one at Smithfield, and in July of the same year, Dr. James C. Cox, Crown Trustee, sent me a specimen for identification, obtained at Pittwater. Previously this species had not been recorded from the County of Cumberland.

ENTOMYZA CYANOTIS, Latham.

Blue-faced Honey-eater.

In my first "List of the Birds found in the County of Cumberland," published in the "Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales" in 1888,³ I enumerated this species. "In my second list published in the "Handbook of Sydney and County of Cumberland"⁴ in 1898, it was omitted, owing to the want of confirmatory evidence of its occurrence. I have never seen a specimen in the flesh, but find that I had overlooked a skin in the Reference Collection of the Australian Museum, obtained by Mr. George Masters at Rope's Creek, in July, 1869.

Family ARTAMIDÆ.

ARTAMUS ALBIVENTRIS, Gould.

White-rumped Wood Swallow.

Mr. H. Newcombe procured a specimen at Randwick on the 7th July, 1902, during the prolonged drought, when other inland species were driven to the coast. This is the only instance I have known of it occurring in the County.

³ North—Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales. (2), iii., 1883, p. 1777.

⁴ North—Handbk. Austr. Assoc. Adv. Sci., Sydney, 1898.

Family PLOCEIDÆ.MUNIA CASTANEOTHORAX, *Gould*.*Chestnut-breasted Finch.*

I recorded this species in my first "List of the Birds of the County of Cumberland" published in the "Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales."⁵ It was omitted in my second list as Dr E. P. Ramsay believed the small flock of birds seen by him at "Yasmar," Dobroyde, Ashfield, was escaped cage-birds. Absolute proof of their occurrence in a wild state was afforded by Mr. A. F. B. Hull who observed this species at Freshwater, near Manly, and found nests with young in April, 1906. Previously in 1901, I had noted it in the southern parts of the adjoining County of Northumberland, where I was informed it bred.

Order PICARLÆ*Sub-order* COCCYGES.*Family* CUCULIDÆ.MISOCALIUS PALLIOLATUS, *Latham*.*Black-eared Cuckoo.*

An extremely rare species chiefly inhabiting the western portions of the State. An immature specimen procured by Mr. L. Harrison at Manly on the 13th January, 1906, is the only one I have seen that was obtained in the County of Cumberland.

Order HEMIPODIDÆ.*Family* TURNICIDÆ.TURNIX VELOX, *Gould*.*Swift-flying Turnix or "Butterfly-Quail."*

This species was included in my first list, but was omitted in the "Birds of the County of Cumberland," published in the Handbook of the "Australian Association for the Advancement of Science." Since then the only instance of its occurrence, that

⁵ North—Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, (2), iii., 1888, p. 1776.

has come under my notice, is based upon a specimen, received in the flesh, from the donor, Mr. A. M. N. Rose of Campbelltown, on the 31st January, 1902.

Order LIMICOLÆ.

Family CHARADRIIDÆ.

Sub-Family HIMANTOPODINÆ.

CLADORHYNCHUS LEUCOCEPHALUS, *Gould.*

Banded Stilt.

Six specimens obtained by Mr. H. Newcombe in November and December, 1902, are the only examples I have seen procured in the County.

Sub-Family TOTANINÆ.

HETERACTITIS BREVIPES, *Vieill.*

Short-toed Sandpiper.

Four specimens obtained by Mr. H. Newcombe at Coogee on the 2nd July, 1900. As with many other writers this species was referred to in my previous lists under the name of the closely allied form *Totanus incanus*, *Gmelin.*

Order STEGANOPODES.

Family PHAETHONTIDÆ.

PHAETON LEPTURUS, *Lacep. and Daudin.*

White-tailed Tropic-bird.

This addition to the avi-fauna of New South Wales, was duly recorded by me in June 1898⁶ After disastrous easterly gales on the coast of New South Wales, an immature bird of this species was picked up by Mr. Henry Burns on the 14th of February 1898, on the shores of Botany Bay. It was in a dying condition, and was presented the following day in the flesh. There is no record of a specimen from any part of Australia in the list enumerated by Mr. Ogilvie Grant in his "Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum."

⁶ North—Rec. Aust. Mus., iii., 1898, p. 89.

Order TUBINARES.*Family* DIOMEDEIDÆ.THALASSOGERON CAUTUS, *Gould.**Shy Albatros.*

I saw one of these birds at the entrance of Lavender Bay, on the 22nd September, 1905. It was resting on the water, but on the approach of a Milson's Point Ferry Steamer flew away, finally settling down again in Farm Cove.

Mr. R. S. Thomas, of South Clifton, captured one alive on the beach during the previous month, and presented it to the Trustees of the Australian Museum.